

XXXIX. *A Letter from Mr. Emanuel Mendes da Costa, Librarian, &c. to the Royal Society, to M. Maty, M. D. Sec. R. S. containing a Supplement to the Account of the Discovery of Native Tin, Art. VII.*

Dear Sir,

Read Dec. 18, 1766. **I** Communicate to you the following paragraph from a letter written to me by the Rev. William Borlase, L L. D. and F. R. S. of Ludgvan, near Pensance, in Cornwall, and bearing date November 23 last past. As it is a paragraph relative to the native tin found in Cornwall, which I had the honour to communicate to the Royal Society on the 6th of March last, and is ordered to be printed; permit me to beg of you to read it at the meeting to-morrow, that, if judged worthy by the Committee of papers, it may be printed with the former paper as a part of it.

I am, with great respect,

S I R,

your very obliged

humble servant,

Royal Society house,  
December 17, 1766.

Vol. LVI.

Emanuel Mendes da Costa.

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EXTRACT.

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“ Mr. Henry Rosewarne, of Truro, says, that  
 “ when he sent the first specimen (presented to the  
 “ Royal Society by me William Borlase, and now  
 “ lodged in their Museum) he mentioned as a proof  
 “ of its being native tin, that between the ore and the  
 “ tin there was a mixture of quartz: but, upon a  
 “ nearer examination and some trials with aqua fortis,  
 “ he and another person found it was not quartz. At  
 “ last, on melting a piece, he perceived no small  
 “ quantity of arsenic to be mixed with it, and there-  
 “ fore suspected that the white parts which had  
 “ passed for quartz were nothing but arsenic. Accord-  
 “ ingly he scraped off a little of it and put it on a red  
 “ hot iron, where it immediately caught fire, and  
 “ evaporated into smoke, leaving behind it the most  
 “ poisonous stench they ever smelt. This confirmed  
 “ some, who had hitherto doubted, in the most  
 “ firm belief that it really was native tin and genuine,  
 “ it being impossible for tin to be melted and the  
 “ arsenic left untouched.”